

FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 1702 – HB 1895

March 31, 2008

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (015764): Authorizes the county election commission to use an electronic poll book which has been approved by the Coordinator of Elections as an alternative to a computerized voter signature list. Establishes procedures to be followed by counties when using either method.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures* - \$621,000 (two times every two years)

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase Local Expenditures – Net Impact - Exceeds \$100,000/Permissive

Assumptions applied to amendment:

- Currently, counties use the computerized voter signature list.
- If a county elects to switch to an electronic poll book, there would be a small cost savings from not printing the voter signature list. However, there would be an increase in local expenditures to purchase the electronic poll book.
- The increase in local expenditures would depend on the cost of the electronic poll book, which counties opted to use the poll book, the size of the counties and the number of precincts in each county.
- It is assumed that the use of the electronic poll book would be more beneficial to the larger counties.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections, there are approximately 2,300 precincts statewide. There are 274 precincts in Shelby County, 169 precincts in Davidson County, 127 precincts in Hamilton County, and 94 precincts in Knox County.

- The average cost of an electronic poll book is estimated to be approximately \$3,500 each.
- Since the number of counties that would opt to use the electronic poll book is unknown, the increase in local government expenditures cannot be determined. However, such increase can be estimated to exceed \$100,000 if at least 29 electronic poll books were purchased statewide or if any one of the big four counties opted to purchase electronic poll books for each of their precincts.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/rct